

April 15, 1993

LB 240, 268, 387, 435, 444, 472, 517, 623  
669A, 720, 739, 757A

back to the landowners, that's there. Meanwhile it can be used as habitat. But I don't think any of that's going to happen. There is an emerging, popular feeling for these trails that is being backed up by private money. And you're going to find that people are going to be buying bicycles and they're going to be heading out into the country and doing some good, healthy exercising with themselves, with their spouses, with their families. This is a part of our future and we should be glad about it. A short time ago, five or six years ago, this Legislature rejected a trail, they call it the trail of two cities, it went between Omaha and Lincoln, and it connected up with a state park system in the Platte Valley. And that, by almost all people now, is acknowledged to have been a big mistake, a big mistake. Now another opportunity comes up. In my opinion, it's not the first opportunity we should grasp onto, there are other parts of this trail system that should become first. But, folks, if this is abandoned this year and we are not positioned to accept it, the opportunity will pass quite possibly forever, you'll never have it back. If it's not put into rail banking, and it won't be put into rail banking unless there's a state institution prepared to accept it, it can then be sold by the railroad and broken up, and you'll never have an opportunity to think about even whether this was not an important link to the future...in the future of this state, an important part of the future of this state. Again, if you're not satisfied with the language in the bill with regard to development, I am flexible in terms of modifying that. But I think it's critical that we hold the corridor and keep it for its possible multiple uses, many of which can be of great value to this state. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the closing. We will now vote on the advancement of LB 739. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 739.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 739 advances. Items for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, new A bills. (Read LB 669A, LB 757A by title for the first time.) Governor...communication to the Clerk from the Governor. (Read communication regarding LB 268, LB 623, LB 387, LB 435, LB 472, LB 517, LB 720, LB 444, LB 240,